# History of Artistic Techniques

## Prof. Caterina Zaira Laskaris

## ***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

## The course aims to provide the methodological tools and basic notions related to materials, execution procedures and conservation aspects of works of art and to encourage an approach to artistic objects that pays particular attention to their technical characteristics.

***COURSE CONTENT***

After an introduction to the methodological principles and sources (written, iconic and material) for the history of artistic techniques, the course will consider the training of the artist in the medieval workshop, the practice of drawing and the nature and use of colours. It will then examine the main painting techniques (mural painting, painting on wood, painting on canvas, manuscript illumination, mosaic) and sculpture techniques (in wood, stone, metal, terracotta), integrating the data provided by historical sources and the latest critical and scientific research.   
Teaching materials, further bibliographical information and digital image folders will be available on the university's Blackboard platform.   
The course may include guided visits to monuments or museum collections, in order to exemplify the topics covered in the lessons and encourage direct observation of artworks.

*COVID-19*

In case the current health emergency continues, both the teaching activity and the forms of learning control, *in itinere* and final, will also be ensured remotely, through the university’s Blackboard platform, Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools provided and communicated at the start of the course, in order to guarantee the full achievement of the educational objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the full safety of the students.

***READING LIST***

The examination program is the same for all the students attending classes or not. The bibliography for the exam includes two sections of texts: Manuals and Sources. Details about the reading list will be provided both in class and on the Blackboard platform

**Handbooks**

* C. Maltese (ed.), *Le tecniche artistiche*, Milano 1973 (selected chapters)
* S. Rinaldi, *Storia tecnica dell’arte. Materiali e metodi della pittura e della scultura (secc. V-XIX)*, Roma, 2011 (selected chapters)
* S. Baroni, M. Mander (eds.), *Tecniche dell’arte*, 2 vv., Milano, 2021 (selected chapters)
* M.L. Papini, *La cornice*, in C. Maltese (ed.), *Preparazione e finitura delle opere pittoriche. Materiali e metodi. Preparazioni e imprimiture - Leganti - Vernici - Cornici*, Milano, 1993

**Sources**

* C. Cennini, *Il libro dell’arte*, edited by F. Frezzato, Vicenza, 2003 (selected chapters)
* G. Vasari, *Le vite de’ più eccellenti pittori,* *scultori e architettori da Cimabue insino a’ tempi* *nostri*, *Introduzione: Scultura, Pittura*,Firenze, 1550; 1568 (selected chapters).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Class lessons and guided tours.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The examination will be oral; both general and specific questions on the issues covered in the lessons will be asked, in order to evaluate the overall preparation of the student, the ability to organize the knowledge acquired, to focus on specific topics and to handle the technical language.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course has a propaedeutical character and it is helpful for any kind of study in the field of art history; it does not require previous specific academic preparation and encourages a technical approach to art objects.

For any doubt and further explanations, please write to the following email address of the professor: [*caterinazaira.laskar@unicatt.it*](mailto:caterinazaira.laskar@unicatt.it)

*Hours and place of reception*

The reception will be agreed with the professor by email and will be held either remotely on the Microsoft Teams platform, or in presence at the adjunct professors’ office of Art History, located in the Franciscanum building, ground floor, next to the Art History Library.